THE EARLE OF STRAFFORDS LETTER TO HIS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,

DATED FROM THE *TOWER*,

4. *May*, 1641.

Anno Domini, 1641.

LUTHER

TO HIS MOST

Anno Domini 1641.

The Earle of STRAFFORDS Letter, to his moſt Excellent Majeſtie, dated from the Tower. 4. *May*, 1641.

May it pleaſe your ſacred Majeſtie.

IT hath beene my greateſt griefe in all theſe troubles, to be taken as a perſon which ſhould endeavour to repreſent and ſet things amiſſe betweene your Majeſtie and your people; and to give Counſells tending to the diſquiet of the three Kingdomes.

Moſt true it is, that this mine owne private Condition conſidered, it had beene a great madneſſe, ſince through your gracious favour I was ſo provided, as not to expect in any kind to mend my fortune, or pleaſe my mind more, then by reſting where your bounteous hands had placed me.

Nay, it is moſt mightily miſtaken, for unto your Majeſty it is well knowne, my poore, and humble adviſes concluded ſtill in this, That your Majeſty and your people could never be happie, till there were a right underſtanding betwixt you and them : no other meanes to effect, and ſettle this happineſſe, but by the Counſell, and aſſent of the Parliament; or to prevent the growing Evills upon this ſtate but by entirely putting your ſelfe in the laſt reſort, upon the loyalty, and good affections of your Engliſh ſubjects.

Yet ſuch is my misfortune, this truth findeth litle credit, the contrary ſeemeth generally to be beleeved, and my ſelfe reputed, as ſome thing of ſeparation betweene you, and your people; under a heavyer cenſure then which I am perſwaded no Gentleman can ſuffer.

Now, I underſtand the minds of men are more incenſed againſt mee, notwithſtanding your Majeſtie hath declared, that in your Princely opinion, I am not guilty of treaſon, nor are you ſatisfied in your Conſcience to paſſe the Bill.

This bringeth me into a very great ſtreight, there is before me the ruine of my Children, and family, *hitherto untouched, in all the branches of it with any foule Crimes*. Here is before me the many ills, which may befall your ſacred perſon, and the whole Kingdome, ſhould your ſelfe, and Parliament part leſſe

ſatisfied

ſatisfied one with the other, then is neceſſary for the preſervation both of King, and people. Here are before mee the things moſt valued moſt feared, by mortall man, *Life*, or *Death*.

To ſay Sir, that there hath not beene a ſtrife in mee, were to make me leſſe then man, God knoweth, mine infirmities give me. And to call a deſtruction upon my ſelfe, and young children, where the intentions of my heart, (at leaſt have been innocent of this great offence) may be releived, will find no eaſie conſent from fleſh and blood.

But with much ſadneſſe, J am come to a reſolution, of that which J take to be beſt becomming me, to look upon that which is moſt principall in it ſelfe; which doubtleſſe is the proſperity of your ſacred perſon, and the common wealth, infinitly before any private mans intereſt.

And therefore in few words, as J put my ſelfe wholly upon the honour, and juſtice of my Peeres ſo clearely, as to beſeech your Majeſty might pleaſe to have ſpared that Declaration of yours on Saturday laſt, and intirely to have left me to their Lordſhips; ſo now, to ſet your Majeſties conſcience at liberty J do moſt humbly beſeech your Majeſtie, *in prevention of miſtakes that may happen, by your refuſall, to paſſe this Bill*; And by this meanes remove (praiſed be God) I cannot ſay, this accurſed, (but I confeſſe) this unfortunate thing forth

of the way, towards that blessed agreement *which God I trust, shall ever establish betweene, you, and your Subjects.*

Sir, my consent shall more acquit you herein to God, then all the world can doe besides. To a willing man there is no injury done. And as by Gods grace, I forgive all the world with a calmenesse and meekenesse of infinite contentment to my dislodging soule; So Sir, to you can I give the life of this world, with all the cheerfulnesse imaginable; in the just acknowledgment of your exceeding favors. And onely beg that in your goodnesse, you would vouchsafe to cast your gracious regard upon my poore Sonne, and his three Sisters, lesse, or more, and no otherwise, then as their (in present) unfortunate Father, may hereafter appeare more, or lesse guilty of this death.

God long preserve your Majestie.

Your Majesties most faithfull, and humble Subject, and Servant.

Tower
4. *May*, 1641. STRAFFORD.